

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated May 20, 2003. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that the application, is in condition for allowance. By virtue of this amendment, claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 23-26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and further examination of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. In the Office Action, the Examiner:

- Rejected claims 19-20 and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Snyder et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,561);
- Rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Synder et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,561) in view of Chu (U.S. Patent No. 6427,146).
- Allowed claims 1-18.

As an initial matter, the Applicants wish to thank Examiner Rones for allowing claims 1-18. Although the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection of independent claims 19 and 20, the Applicants have elected to amend claims 19 and 20 to include all the limitations of allowable independent claim 1 and to cancel independent claims 23-26 solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG), 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000). Therefore independent claims 19 and 20 as now presented contains those limitations of claim 1 and should be allowable as well, which allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSIONS

The remaining cited references have been reviewed and are not believed to effect the patentability of the claims as previously amended.

In light of the Office Action, Applicants believe these amendments serve a useful clarification purpose, and are desirable for clarification purposes, independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments do not limit the range of any permissible equivalents.

Applicants acknowledge the continuing duty of candor and good faith to the disclosure of information known to be material to the examination of this application. In accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.56, all such information is dutifully made of record. The foreseeable equivalents of any territory surrendered by amendment is limited to the territory taught by the information of record. No other territory afforded by the doctrine of equivalents is knowingly surrendered and everything else is unforeseeable at the time of this amendment by the Applicants and their attorneys.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the grounds for rejection stated in the Examiner's Office Action have been overcome, and that all claims in the application are allowable. No new matter has been added. It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

PLEASE, if for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call either of the undersigned attorneys at (561) 989-9811 should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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